
V. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,390,842). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a connector that includes a generally rectangular card and a housing. The housing has a generally box-shaped housing space for housing the card. The housing space includes a first side face, two second side faces adjoining the first side face, and an insert face adjoining the first side face and the second side faces for admitting the inserted card. The housing has an engaging portion formed along the first side face of the housing space, and a pair of holding portions formed along the second side faces. Claim 1 recites that each of the holding portions has a flexible portion extending along the second side face and elastically deformable outside and a first lock piece disposed along the flexible portion for covering a portion of the insert face and a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. The lock pieces are pushed by end edges of the card to open outside when one end side of the card is engaged to the engaging portion and the other end side of the card is turned toward the housing, and the lock pieces lock the card when the card is housed in the housing space.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 6, as amended, is directed to a housing that includes a generally box-shaped housing space, and engaging portion, and a pair of holding portions. The generally box-shaped housing space houses a generally rectangular card. The housing space includes a first side face, two second side faces adjoining the first side face, and an insert face adjoining the first side face and the second side faces for admitting the inserted card. The engaging portion is formed along the first side face of the housing space. Claim 6 recites that the pair of holding portions are formed along the second side faces with each of the holding portions having a flexible portion extending along the second side face and elastically deformable

outside, and a first lock piece is disposed along the flexible portion for covering a portion of the insert face and a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. The lock pieces are pushed by end edges of the card to open outside when one end side of the card is engaged to the engaging portion and the other end side of the card is turned toward the housing and the lock pieces lock the card when the card is housed in the housing space.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 6 as amended. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a first lock piece is disposed along the flexible portion for covering a portion of the insert face and a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to a method for connecting a connector having a generally rectangular card, and a housing having a generally box-shaped housing space for housing the card with the housing space including a first side face, two second side faces adjoining the first side face, and an insert face adjoining the first side face and the second side faces for admitting the inserted card. The housing has an engaging portion formed along the first side face of the housing space and a pair of holding portions formed along the second side faces with each of the holding portions having a flexible portion extending along the second side face and elastically deformable outside and a first lock piece disposed along the flexible portion for covering a portion of the insert face and a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. The method comprising steps of:

- engaging one end side of the card to the engaging portion;
- turning the other end side of the card toward the housing so as to push the lock pieces with end edges of the card and open the lock pieces outside; and
- housing the card in the housing space so as to lock the card with the lock pieces.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 10 as amended. Specifically, the applied art

fails to teach a first lock piece disposed along the flexible portion for covering a portion of the insert face and a second lock piece generally disposed at right angles to a forefront of the flexible portion for covering a portion of an open surface adjoining the insert face. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the applied art.

The following effects can be attained according to amended claims 1, 6 and 10.

According to the cited reference, an engaging portion covers an insert face of a housing, a card can fall out from an open surface because no covering portion covers the open surface adjoining the insert face.

According to the claimed invention, a second lock piece is disposed to cover an open surface adjoining the insert face so that a first lock piece and a second lock piece cover an insert face and open surface. Therefore the housing can keep holding the card.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 and include all of the features of claim 6. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 10, 2004

By:



Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

DC167108